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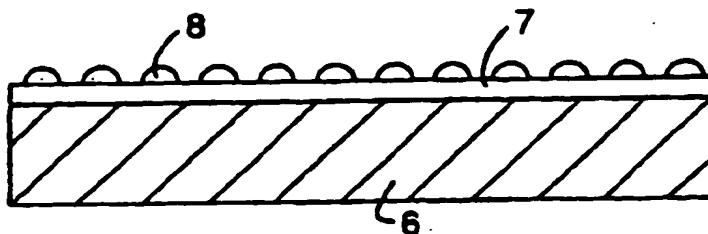
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(54) Quantum dot device

(57) A quantum device is constituted from a two-dimensional array of quantum dots formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex. The metalloprotein is arranged on the surface of a substrate having an insulation layer with a pitch of the size

of the metalloprotein complex. The diameter of the metal atom aggregates used in the quantum device is 7 nm or smaller, and the pitch of the metalloprotein complex is preferably from 11 to 14 nm.

Fig.3



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Description**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****Field of the Invention**

The present invention relates to a quantum device wherein quantum dots are arrayed in two-dimensional configuration. The quantum dots arrayed on the quantum device can be preferably used as single-electron transistor, doping diode, doping transistor, doping transistor array and semiconductor light emitting device.

Description of Related Art

Devices that utilize single-electron tunnel effect such as single-electron transistor and single-electron memory are attracting much attention. The single-electron transistor, for example, is a promising candidate that can replace MOSFETs to satisfy the requirements of miniaturization of devices to the order of sub-micron for which improvements on the MOSFETs, the mainstream technology in the field of semiconductor transistor, are reaching limitations thereof.

A fine particle surrounded by thin insulation layer receives electrons from an external electrode by the tunnel effect. Because the particle has a capacitance C with respect to the outside, electrostatic energy of the particle changes by $e^2/2C$ when an electron enters therein. This prohibits subsequent electron from entering the fine particle by the tunnel effect. Therefore, in order to fabricate the device utilizing the single-electron tunnel effect, it is inevitable to arrange quantum dots on an insulator, the quantum dots being formed from microscopic metal particles having electrostatic energy higher than energy ΔE (approximately 25 mV) required for thermal excitation of electron at room temperature. In case $e^2/2C$ has a low value, it is inevitable to make an array of quantum dots having energy just above the Fermi level of microscopic dot higher than the thermal excitation level of electron. Although single-electron operation is lost in this case, transistor operation can still be achieved. Also microscopic lead wires must be formed even when a quantum device can be achieved, because the tunnel effect does not occur with wide lead wires of the conventional circuits due to parasitic capacitance accompanying the lead wires.

As a single-electron memory, such a prototype device was made as a fine line (100 nm wide) of polycrystal Si film having an extremely small thickness of 3.4 nm and a gate electrode (100 nm) cross each other via an oxide film gate of 150 nm by depositing a-Si in depressurized CVD process and crystallizing at 750°C (Japanese Journal of Applied Physics: Vol.63, No.12, pp.1248, 1994). This device operates at a room temperature and has a potential for the use as an nonvolatile memory which operates at a speed exceeding the limitation of the conventional flash memory. Also an alumin-

ium-based single-electron transistor having an island electrode measuring 20 nm was fabricated by means of electron beam lithography and triangular shadow evaporation technologies (Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., Vol.35, 1996, pp. L1465-L1467). This single-electron transistor has advantages which are not found in silicon-based devices, for example, such as periodical gate modulation characteristic wherein background current does not depend on the gate voltage.

However, the single-electron memory based on the polycrystal Si film is unstable because there are variations in the Si film thickness. Also the Al-based single-electron transistor operates at 100 K, far below the room temperature, and is not of practical use.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Thus, an object of the present invention is to provide a quantum device which operates stably at the normal temperature and is applicable for commercial production of single-electron transistor and single-electron memory.

Another object of the present invention is to provide extremely small devices such as diode, transistor and semiconductor light emitting devices doped with extremely small amounts of impurities, not experienced in the prior art, by utilizing microscopic dots arranged in the quantum device.

In order to achieve the above and other objects, the quantum device of the present invention is constituted from a two-dimensional array of quantum dots formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex arranged on the surface of a substrate having an insulation layer at least on the surface thereof with a pitch of the size of the metalloprotein complex.

The metal which constitutes the metal atom aggregates used in the quantum device is preferably one that can ionize in an aqueous solution. For example, the metal may be iron Fe, aluminum Al, phosphorus P, germanium Ge, zinc Zn, manganese Mn, arsenic As, gold Au, silver Ag, tungsten W or the like, while Fe is preferable.

The diameter of the metal atom aggregates used in the quantum device is 7 nm or smaller, preferably 5 nm or smaller, and the pitch of the metalloprotein complex is preferably from 11 to 14 nm.

In a method appropriate for manufacturing the quantum device of the present invention, first the metalloprotein complex is let be adsorbed onto a denatured protein membrane, polypeptide membrane or LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution. The membrane is then placed on a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of the protein and has an insulating property on the surface thereof, to burn out the protein component in a gas atmosphere which does not react with the substrate. The metalloprotein complex is turned into a metal oxide and remains on the substrate in a pattern of

dots spaced by a pitch of the size of the protein molecule. Then the metal oxide is heated in a reducing atmosphere to be reduced. The metal oxide is thus reduced into metal atom aggregates which are arranged in a two-dimensional array on the substrate.

The metalloprotein complex used in the quantum device of the present invention is preferably ferritin, but the protein may also be one derived from phage or virus.

As the substrate used in the quantum device of the present invention, silicon substrate has wide applicability but glass substrate or ceramic substrate may also be used.

A single-electron transistor of the present invention is constituted from quantum dots which are formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex and arrayed in two-dimensional configuration with a pitch of the size of the metalloprotein complex on the surface of a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperatures of the protein and has an insulation layer on the surface thereof, and comprises a quantum well made of first quantum dot, an electrode section made from at least three quantum dots located around the quantum well and a wiring section which connects the quantum dots other than those around the quantum well and the electrode section, wherein the electrode section has a source and a drain comprising second quantum dots and third quantum dots, respectively, which oppose each other, and a control gate comprising fourth quantum dots that remain.

The metal used in the metal atom aggregates, the metalloprotein complex and the substrate of the single-electron transistor may be the same as those used in the quantum device described above.

The diameter of the metal atom aggregate used in the single-electron transistor is 7 nm or smaller, or preferably 5 nm or smaller, which means that one aggregate normally comprises several thousands of atoms, depending on the metal element. As a consequence, the transition level nearest to the Fermi level of the aggregate is higher than the thermal excitation level of electron at room temperature. The quantum well and the electrode section are separated by a distance of 11 to 14 nm which allows the tunnel effect to occur. Therefore, the tunnel effect can be observed in the single-electron transistor at the room temperature or at around the temperature of liquid nitrogen.

An appropriate method for manufacturing the quantum transistor of the present invention comprises, in addition to the steps of manufacturing the quantum device described above, a step of irradiating the metal atom aggregates with electron beam of a scanning electron microscope, of which beam width is set to be not greater than the pitch, in vacuum in the presence of a trace of carbon compound, while scanning the electron beam to have carbon vapor-deposited between the metal atom aggregates thereby forming lead wires. This causes the source and the drain to be connected with

the quantum dots other than those around the quantum well by carbon wires. The source of carbon supply may be the residual gas consisting mainly of hydrocarbons coming from vacuum pump oil. This wiring method, which makes it possible to make extremely fine wires spaced by a distance of the order of nanometers, is best suited to the manufacture of microscopic devices such as single-electron transistor.

A diode of the present invention has quantum dots 5 formed from metal atom aggregates wherein donor impurities and acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex hetero-dimer are arrayed with a pitch of the size of the metalloprotein complex on the surface of a substrate having an insulation layer on the surface thereof, and 10 has an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction formed by diffusing the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities via the insulation layer into the substrate, an electrode section formed in a specified configuration 15 and a wiring section which connects the n-type region, the p-type region and the electrode section.

An appropriate method of fabricating the diode of the present invention comprises the step of arraying donor impurities and acceptor impurities with a pitch of 20 the size of the metalloprotein complex on the surface of the substrate, comprising the steps of (a) fabricating a metalloprotein complex hetero-dimer which includes the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates; (b) adsorbing a metalloprotein complex hetero-dimer onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution; (c) placing the LB membrane having the metalloprotein complex hetero-dimer adsorbed thereon on a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out 25 temperature of the protein and has an insulation layer on the surface thereof, and burning out the protein through heat treatment in an inert gas that does not react with the substrate; and (d) reducing in a reducing atmosphere thereby to obtain metal atom aggregates; (e) forming the n-type region, the p-type region and the pn junction by diffusing the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities via the insulation layer into the substrate by heat treatment; (f) forming the electrode section by patterning electrodes of a specified 30 configuration; and (g) irradiating the n-type region, the p-type region and the electrode section with electron beam of a scanning electron microscope, of which beam width is set to be not greater than the pitch, in vacuum in the presence of a trace of carbon compound, 35 while scanning the electron beam to have carbon vapor-deposited between the n-type region and the electrode section, and between the p-type region and the electrode section, thereby forming lead wires.

A transistor of the present invention has quantum dots comprising metal atom aggregates and donor impurities or acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer which are arrayed with a pitch of the size

of the metalloprotein complex, while a group of impurities capable of forming npn structure formed from acceptor impurities having donor impurities on both sides thereof or a group of impurities capable of forming pnp structure formed from donor impurities having acceptor impurities on both sides thereof is arranged on the surface of the substrate, so that the n-type region, the p-type region and the pn junction formed by diffusing the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities via the insulation layer into the substrate, the electrode section formed in a specified configuration, and the wiring section connecting the n-type region, the p-type region and the electrode section are provided.

A manufacturing method appropriate for the transistor of the present invention comprises the step of arranging donor impurities and acceptor impurities on the surface of a substrate with a pitch of the size of the metalloprotein complex, comprising the steps of (a) fabricating metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer by holding the acceptor impurities or the donor impurities on both sides of the donor impurity and the acceptor impurity formed from metal atom aggregates; (b) adsorbing a metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution; (c) placing the LB membrane having the metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer adsorbed thereon on a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of the protein; (d) burning out the protein through heat treatment in an inert gas that does not react with the substrate; and (e) reducing the metalloprotein complex in a reducing atmosphere, and (f) forming the n-type region, the p-type region and the pn junction by diffusing the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities via the insulation layer into the substrate by heat treatment; (g) forming an electrode section of a specified configuration; and (h) irradiating the n-type region, the p-type region, the pn junction and the electrode section with electron beam of a scanning electron microscope, of which beam width is set to be not greater than the pitch, in vacuum in the presence of a trace of carbon compound, while scanning the electron beam to have carbon vapor-deposited between the n-type region and the electrode section, and between the p-type region and the electrode section, thereby forming lead wires.

The metal used in the metal atom aggregates, the metalloprotein complex and the substrate of the diode and the transistor may be the same as those used in the quantum device described above, and the diameter of the metal atom aggregate is similarly 7 nm or smaller, or preferably 5 nm or smaller.

The manufacturing method appropriate for the diode and the transistor is different from the manufacturing method for the single-electron transistor, in that two or three kinds of metalloprotein complex of different metal elements are combined and adsorbed onto the substrate in the form of hetero-dimer or hetero-trimer, and that the donor impurities and the acceptor impuri-

ties are diffused by heating to a temperature from 1000 to 1200°C.

The diode and the transistor thus obtained measure about 10 nm by 30 nm, and is expected to operate at an extremely high speed.

A transistor array of the present invention comprises transistors arranged in a two-dimensional array at intervals of an integer number times the pitch, which is from 11 to 14 nm, wherein quantum dots comprise metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer having at least one layer of apoprotein in the surrounding thereof with donor impurities or acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates being arranged with a pitch of the size of the metalloprotein complex, while a group of impurities capable of forming npn structure formed from acceptor impurities having donor impurities on both sides thereof or a group of impurities capable of forming pnp structure formed from donor impurities having acceptor impurities on both sides thereof is arranged on the surface of the substrate, the transistor having an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction formed by diffusing the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities via an insulation layer into the substrate, an electrode section formed in a specified configuration and a wiring section for connecting the n-type region, the p-type region and the electrode section.

A manufacturing method appropriate for the transistor array of the present invention is basically similar to that of the method of manufacturing the transistor described above, although different in that the hetero-trimer is adsorbed onto the substrate while being surrounded by a multitude of protein molecules which do not include metals, for example a multitude of apoferritin molecules. Both the protein comprising metalloprotein complex and the protein such as apoferritin are burned out. Finally, the acceptor impurities and the donor impurities are arranged at a pitch of the size of the protein, while a group of impurities and a group of other impurities originating from one hetero-trimer are arranged at intervals an integer n times the size of the protein which is from 11 to 14 nm. The integer n can be controlled in terms of the number of protein layers which surround the hetero-trimer.

Because the transistor array of the present invention has transistors arranged at intervals of the order of nanometers, around ten billion transistors per square centimeter can be packaged on a chip, making it possible to achieve an amplifier of high gain.

The manufacturing method appropriate for microscopic dots of the order of nanometers having quantum effects, comprises the steps of arranging quantum dots formed from a plurality of metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex in two-dimensional configuration on a surface of a substrate having an insulation layer with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex, and forming column shaped structures on the surface of said substrate by plasma etching via said

masking quantum dots, and insulating a space between said column shaped structures.

A semiconductor light emitting device of the present invention has p-type and n-type semiconductor layers and an activation layer formed on an insulating substrate, wherein masking quantum dots formed from a plurality of metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex are arranged in a two-dimensional array on the surface of the activation layer with a pitch of the size of the metalloprotein complex, and quantum dots formed from the activation layer are formed by plasma etching via the masking quantum dots.

A manufacturing method appropriate for the semiconductor light emitting device of the present invention is different from the method of manufacturing the quantum device described above only in that the quantum dots are arrayed on the surface of a light emitting layer laminated on the insulating substrate, while the step of forming the quantum dots from the activation layer by plasma etching is included with the arrayed quantum dots being used as the mask.

The metal contained in the metal atom aggregates, the metalloprotein complex and the substrate used in the semiconductor light emitting device may be the same as those used in the quantum device described above, and diameter of the metal atom aggregate is similarly 7 nm or smaller, or preferably 5 nm or smaller.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above and other objects and features of the present invention will become more apparent from the following description of preferred embodiments thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, throughout which like parts are designated by like reference numerals.

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing the ferritin structure according to the present invention.

Fig. 2A is a schematic diagram showing the step of manufacturing the quantum device of the present invention.

Fig. 2B is a schematic diagram showing the step of manufacturing the quantum device of the present invention.

Fig. 2C is a schematic diagram showing the step of manufacturing the quantum device of the present invention.

Fig. 2D is a schematic diagram showing the step of manufacturing the quantum device of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a schematic sectional view showing the quantum device on the silicon substrate of the present invention.

Fig. 4 is a microscope (SEM) photograph of 100,000 times magnification showing the quantum device on the silicon substrate of the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a schematic plan view showing the single-electron transistor formed from the quantum device on

the silicon substrate of the present invention.

Fig. 6 is a schematic sectional view showing the hetero-dimer of the metalloprotein complex of the present invention.

Fig. 7 is a schematic sectional view showing the structure of the diode of the present invention.

Fig. 8 is a schematic sectional view showing the structure of the transistor of the present invention.

Fig. 9 is a schematic sectional view showing the hetero-trimer surrounded by apoferritin of the present invention.

Fig. 10 is a schematic plan view showing the transistor array of the present invention.

Fig. 11 is a schematic sectional view showing the structure of the semiconductor light emitting device of the present invention.

Fig. 12 is a schematic sectional view showing the method of bonding the lead frame member of the semiconductor light emitting device of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

This application is based on application No.9-157436 filed 1997. May. 30 in Japan, the content of which is incorporated hereinto by reference.

Preferred embodiments of the quantum device and the device employing the same according to the present invention will now be described below with reference to the accompanying drawings.

Embodiment 1

The first embodiment of the present invention is an example of method for manufacturing the quantum device. A solution of ferritin is prepared. Ferritin is a metalloprotein complex comprising a core 1 of Fe_2O_3 enclosed in a shell 2 of protein as shown in Fig. 1, which can be extracted from organs such as spleen and liver of animals such as horse and cow. The core 1 has a diameter about 6 nm, and includes from 1000 to 3000 iron atoms. The shell 2 is a trisoctamer of protein having a molecular weight of about 20,000. The trisoctamer measures about 12 nm across.

As shown in Fig. 2A, a tank 3 made of teflon is filled with a buffer liquid wherein ferritin 4 is dispersed and PBLH membrane (polypeptide membrane) 5 is spread on the liquid surface. Hydrogen ion concentration of the liquid is controlled to about pH6 by using a proper acid, for example hydrochloric acid. Because the PBLH membrane 5 is positively charged and the ferritin 4 is negatively charged, ferritin 4 is adsorbed onto the PBLH membrane 5, resulting in a two-dimensional crystal being formed (Fig.2B). Then after having a silicon substrate 6, which is about 500 μm thick and is oxidized deep into the surface to have the 2-dimensional crystal deposited on the substrate (Fig.2C), the substrate is taken out of the tank 3 (Fig.2D). The substrate is then

heat-treated in an inert gas which does not react with the silicon, for example nitrogen, at a temperature of 500°C.

Protein and the PBLH membrane are burned out, leaving Fe₂O₃ or other iron oxide 8 arranged two-dimensionally via a thin film 7 of silicon oxide on the substrate, as shown in cross sectional view of Fig. 3. That the iron oxide 8 is arranged two-dimensionally is confirmed through measurement by AFM analysis which shows the iron oxide 8 has only two heights, 5.3 nm and 10.6 nm, and mostly 5.3 nm. SEM photograph ($\times 100,000$) of two-dimensional crystal of iron oxide obtained after one hour of heat treatment in nitrogen atmosphere at 500°C. In Fig. 4, many white dots represent the iron oxide and black portions in the surrounding thereof are protein and silicon that remain. When the two-dimensional crystal is subjected to heat treatment again for 60 minutes in a hydrogen atmosphere at 800 to 500°C, a quantum device is obtained comprising a multitude of iron atom aggregates arranged two-dimensionally on the oxide film of the surface of the silicon substrate 6. The diameter of the aggregate is about 6 nm, the same as that of the core of iron oxide contained in ferritin, and the pitch between aggregates is about 12 nm, the same as one side of the protein shell of ferritin. As shown in the plan view of Fig. 5, a single-electron transistor is obtained by using one of the aggregates M as a quantum well Q, at least three quantum dots surrounding the quantum well as an electrode, second and third quantum dots which oppose each other interposing the quantum well as a drain D and a source S, respectively, remaining fourth quantum dot in the surrounding as a gate G, and other aggregates M as wiring.

Because the quantum well Q of the single-electron transistor is an aggregate comprising one thousand to three thousand atoms, the transition level nearest to the Fermi level of the quantum well is higher than the thermal excitation level of electrons at room temperature. The quantum well Q, the drain D and the source S are separated by a distance of 12 nm which allows the tunnel effect to occur. Therefore, tunnel effect can be observed in the single-electron transistor at the room temperature or at a practically feasible temperature.

Embodiment 2

This embodiment is an example of wiring method for the quantum device obtained in the first embodiment. The quantum device obtained in the first embodiment is put in the chamber of a field emission scanning electron microscope (FE-SEM), inside of the chamber being pumped vacuum to about 10⁻⁶ Pa. Electron beam with a width being set to about 5 nm is scanned between the drain D, the source S or the gate G and one or more of the iron atom aggregates M1 through M3. This results in a lead wire made of carbon 20 nm wide connecting the drain the source, the gate and the iron

atom aggregates M1 through M3 and electrodes M1 through M3 being formed.

Embodiment 3

The third embodiment is an example of the diode of the present invention. A column filled with polystyrene beads of mean diameter 100 μm having ammonium radical NH⁴⁺ bonded onto the surface thereof is prepared. Aluminum oxide is put in the position of an apoferritin core, and metal-apoferritin complex thus obtained is passed through the column to be adsorbed onto the polystyrene beads. Then phosphoric acid is put in the position of another apoferritin core, and metal-apoferritin complex thus obtained is passed through the same column to be adsorbed onto the polystyrene beads. The two kinds of metal-apoferritin complex are made to bond by disulfide linkage between sulfur atoms of a cysteine residue of protein, thereby fabricating a hetero-dimer shown in Fig. 6. The hetero-dimer is let flow out of the column into the same tank as that of the first embodiment.

Under the same conditions as those of the first embodiment except that the ferritin of the first embodiment is replaced with the hetero-dimer, the two-dimensional crystal is made to deposit on the silicon substrate, protein is burned out and reduced into metal atom aggregate. Aluminum atom aggregate and phosphorus atom aggregate are arranged with a space a 12 nm between the centers thereof on the silicon substrate. This is subjected to heat treatment under the same conditions as those of the first embodiment so that the aluminum atom aggregate and phosphorus atom aggregate are arranged on the silicon substrate, which are subjected to heat treatment at a higher temperature so that the aggregates are diffused into the silicon substrate right below to form n- and p-type semiconductors. Then Al film is formed into a specified configuration by means of photolithography technology or electron beam lithography technology while masking the n- and p-type semiconductors and formed an electrode section. The diode is formed by forming a carbon wire similarly to the second embodiment 2 (Fig. 7). The diode measures 10 nm by 20 nm.

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Embodiment 4

The fourth embodiment is an example of the transistor of the present invention. Hetero-dimer is fabricated in a column in the same procedure as that of the third embodiment. Aluminum oxide is put in the position of third apoferritin core, and metal-apoferritin complex thus obtained is passed through the same column to be adsorbed onto the polystyrene beads. Then the hetero-dimer and the metal-apoferritin complex are made to bond by disulfide linkage between sulfur atoms of a cysteine residue of protein, thereby fabricating a heterotrimer. The heterotrimer is let flow out of the column

into the same tank as that of the first embodiment.

Under the same conditions as those of the first embodiment except that the ferritin of the first embodiment is replaced with the hetero-trimer, the two-dimensional crystal is made to deposit on the silicon substrate, protein is burned out and reduced into metal atom aggregate. Aluminum atom aggregate and phosphorus atom aggregate are arranged with a space of 12 nm between the centers thereof on the silicon substrate. This is subjected to heat treatment under the same conditions as those of the second embodiment so that the aluminum atom aggregate and the phosphorus atom aggregate are diffused into the silicon substrate right below to form p-, n- and p-type semiconductors. Then an electrode section 3 and a carbon wire are formed similarly to the third embodiment (Fig. 8). The transistor measures 10 nm by 30 nm.

Embodiment 5

The fifth embodiment is an example of the transistor array of the present invention. Hetero-trimer is fabricated in a column in the same process as that of the fourth embodiment. A large amount of apoferritin is passed through the same column to be adsorbed onto the polystyrene beads. Then the hetero-trimer and the apoferritin are made to bond by disulfide linkage between sulfur atoms of a cysteine residue of protein, thereby surrounding the hetero-trimer with a layer comprising a multitude of apoferritin as shown in Fig. 9.

Under the same conditions as those of the first embodiment except that the ferritin of the first embodiment is replaced with the hetero-trimer surrounded by the apoferritin, the two-dimensional crystal is made to deposit on the silicon substrate, protein is burned out and reduced into metal atom aggregate. Aluminum atom aggregate and phosphorus atom aggregate are found to be arranged with a space of 12 nm between the centers thereof on the silicon substrate. This is subjected to another heat treatment under the same conditions as those of the first embodiment so that the aluminum atom aggregate and the phosphorus atom aggregate are arranged on the silicon substrate, which are further subjected to heat treatment at a higher temperature and are diffused into the silicon substrate right below to form n- and p-type semiconductors. These semiconductors function as transistor array, each measuring 10 nm by 30 nm.

Embodiment 6

The sixth embodiment is an example of the semiconductor light emitting device of the present invention which will be described below with reference to Fig. 11. A single crystal sapphire substrate 101 having been cleaned with an organic solvent and heat treatment is set on a susceptor which is put in a reaction chamber of an MOCVD apparatus.

(Formation of a buffer layer on a sapphire substrate)

While circulating hydrogen gas through the reaction chamber at normal pressure, the sapphire substrate is etched in gas phase at 1100°C. Then with the temperature being lowered to 400°C, hydrogen gas, ammonia gas and trimethyl aluminum gas are supplied in predetermined proportions, thereby to form a buffer layer 102 comprising AlN.

(Formation of an n-type GaN layer of silicon layer doped with silicon)

With the sapphire substrate 1 maintained at 1150 °C, hydrogen gas, ammonia gas, trimethyl aluminum gas and silane gas are supplied in specified proportions, thereby to form a silicon-doped n-type GaN layer 103.

(Formation of an n-type AlGaN clad layer)

With the sapphire substrate 1 maintained at 1150 °C, hydrogen gas, ammonia gas, trimethyl gallium gas, trimethyl aluminum gas and silane gas are supplied in specified proportions, thereby to form a silicon-doped n-type AlGaN clad layer 104.

(Formation of light emitting InGaN layer on n-type AlGaN)

With the sapphire substrate 1 maintained at 800 °C, hydrogen gas, ammonia gas, trimethyl gallium gas and trimethyl indium gas and silane gas are supplied in specified proportions, thereby to form an InGaN layer 105.

(Formation of two-dimensional crystal membrane on InGaN layer)

A substrate having the InGaN layer as the top layer thereof is floated in a tank wherein a two-dimensional crystal is formed, similarly to the silicon substrate of the first embodiment, and the substrate with the two-dimensional crystal membrane deposited thereon is taken out of the tank. Then the substrate is subjected to heat treatment in an inert gas at 500°C, so that dots of iron oxide 106 are arranged regularly on the InGaN layer 105 at specified intervals.

(Formation of quantum dots of InGaN layer)

The substrate having the dots of iron oxide 106 arranged regularly thereon is subjected to plasma etching by electron cyclotron resonance absorption (ECR), under conditions of introducing SF₆ as plasma gas, pressure of about 10⁻² Pa, with microwave applied so that plasma is generated by electron cyclotron resonance absorption. At this time, the substrate is main-

tained at a low temperature to prevent chemical etching from taking place. While the temperature is preferably -50°C or lower, it is necessary to determine the optimum temperature taking various influences into consideration and precisely control the substrate temperature, in order to maintain the influence of the plasma state due to the substrate cooling efficiency and vacuum vessel. Through the plasma etching, the iron oxide dots become mask thereby forming circular column structures several nanometers in diameter arranged regularly. Quantum dots are formed by filling the space between the circular column structures with an insulating material such as oxide.

(Formation of a p-type AlGaN layer on quantum dot)

With a sapphire substrate 101 maintained at 1050 °C, hydrogen gas, ammonia gas, trimethyl gallium gas, trimethyl aluminum and cyclopentadienyl magnesium are supplied in specified proportions, thereby to form a magnesium-doped p-type AlGaN clad layer 107.

(Formation of a p-type GaN layer on p-type AlGaN layer)

With the sapphire substrate 101 maintained at 1050°C, hydrogen gas, ammonia gas, trimethyl gallium gas, trimethyl aluminum and cyclopentadienyl magnesium are supplied in predetermined proportions, thereby to form a magnesium-doped p-type GaN contact layer 108.

(Formation of electrode)

In a tank maintained at high degree of vacuum, an Ni layer is vapor-deposited on the top surface of the specimen described above, and the Ni layer is formed into a specified configuration by photolithography thereby to form an electrode 109 of p-type GaN. On the other hand, the specimen is etched on the p-type GaN side to expose the n-type GaN layer, and Al layer is vapor-deposited on part of the exposed n-type GaN thereby to form an electrode 110 of n-type GaN.

(Separation of device)

The wafer formed as described above is cut to a specified size and the electrodes are bonded onto leads 111, 112 of a lead frame thereby to form light emitting devices (Fig. 12).

In the prior art, quantum dots have been formed in the light emitting layer by utilizing the capability of InGaN of the light emitting layer to spontaneously forming quantum dot, but uniform quantum dots cannot be formed. According to the present invention, because of plasma etching employing two-dimensionally arranged dots of iron oxide contained in ferritin as the mask, quantum dots of uniform sizes of nanometer order can

be formed, thereby making it possible to improve the internal quantum efficiency and improve the efficiency of emitting blue light.

The quantum device of the present invention has, because microscopic metal atom aggregates are arranged at extremely small intervals and microscopic lead wires can be made by the wiring method of the present invention, application for single-electron transistor, single-electron memory, diode, transistor and semiconductor light emitting device which operate stably at the normal temperature.

Claims

15. 1. A quantum device comprising:
a substrate;
an insulation layer deposited on a surface of said substrate;
a plurality of quantum dots two-dimensionally arrayed on said insulation layer and each made of a metal atom aggregate, said plurality of quantum dots having a pitch of a size of a metalloprotein complex, and said quantum dots being formed from metal atom aggregates contained in said metalloprotein complex.
20. 2. The quantum device according to claim 1, wherein a metal composing said metal atom aggregates is capable of ionizing in an aqueous solution.
25. 3. The quantum device according to claim 1, wherein the metal composing said metal atom aggregates is at least one selected from the group consisting of Fe, Zn, As, Al, Mn, P, Au, Ag and W.
30. 4. The quantum device according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 7 nm or smaller.
35. 5. The quantum device according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 5 nm or smaller.
40. 6. The quantum device according to claim 1, wherein said pitch is from 11 to 14 nm.
45. 7. The quantum device according to claim 1, wherein said metalloprotein complex is ferritin.
50. 8. The quantum device according to claim 1, wherein said substrate is a silicon substrate.
55. 9. A method of fabricating a quantum device, which comprises the steps of:
(a) adsorbing a metalloprotein complex onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an

aqueous solution;

(b) placing said LB membrane having said metalloprotein complex adsorbed thereon on a substrate and burning out said protein under inert atmosphere that does not react with said substrate, said substrate being durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of said protein and having an insulation layer or a semiconductor layer on the surface thereof; and

(c) reducing said metalloprotein complex thereby to obtain metal atom aggregates.

10. A single-electron transistor comprising quantum dots formed from microscopic metal particles of which transition level nearest to the Fermi level is higher than the thermal excitation level of electron at room temperature, said single-electron transistor comprising:

15 said quantum dots formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex and arrayed in two-dimensional configuration with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex on a surface of a substrate having an insulation layer on the surface thereof;

20 a quantum well comprising first quantum dot, an electrode section comprising at least three quantum dots located around said quantum well and a wiring section connecting quantum dots other than those of said quantum well and said electrode section are provided; and

25 said electrode section having a source and a drain comprising second quantum dot and third quantum dot, respectively, which oppose each other, and a control gate comprising remaining fourth quantum dot.

30 11. The single-electron transistor according to claim 10, wherein a metal composing said metal atom aggregates is capable of ionizing in an aqueous solution.

35 12. The single-electron transistor according to claim 10, wherein a metal composing said metal atom aggregates is at least one selected from the group consisting of Fe, Zn, As, Al, Mn, P, Au, Ag and W.

40 13. The single-electron transistor according to claim 10, wherein the diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 7 nm or smaller.

45 14. The single-electron transistor according to claim 10, wherein the diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 5 nm or smaller.

50 15. The single-electron transistor according to claim 10, wherein said pitch is from 11 to 14 nm.

5 16. The single-electron transistor according to claim 10, wherein said substrate is a silicon substrate.

10 17. A method of fabricating single-electron transistor comprising quantum dots formed from microscopic metal particles of which transition level nearest to the Fermi level is higher than the thermal excitation level of electron at room temperature, said method comprising the steps of:

15 (a) adsorbing a metalloprotein complex onto an LB membrane developed on a surface of an aqueous solution;

20 (b) placing said LB membrane having said metalloprotein complex adsorbed thereon on a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of said protein and having an insulation layer at least on the surface thereof;

25 (c) burning out said protein through heat treatment in an inert gas that does not react with said substrate; and

30 (d) reducing said metalloprotein complex thereby to obtain metal atom aggregates; and

35 (e) irradiating said metal atom aggregates with electron beam of a scanning electron microscope, of which beam width is set to be not greater than said pitch, in vacuum in the presence of a trace of carbon compound, while scanning said electron beam to have carbon vapor-deposited between said metal atom aggregates thereby forming lead wires.

40 18. The method according to claim 17, further comprising the step of adsorbing ferritin as said metalloprotein complex onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution.

45 19. A diode having a pn junction formed from quantum dots arranged on the surface of a substrate which has an insulation layer on the surface thereof, said diode comprising:

50 said quantum dots comprising metal atom aggregates;

55 donor impurities and acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex hetero-dimer being arrayed with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex on the surface of said substrate;

60 an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction being formed by diffusing said donor impurities and acceptor impurities via said insulation layer into said substrate;

65 an electrode section formed in a specified con-

figuration ; and
a wiring section for connecting said n-type region, said p-type region and said electrode section .

20. The diode according to claim 19, wherein a metal composing said metal atom aggregates is capable of ionizing in an aqueous solution.

21. The diode according to claim 19, wherein the metal composing said metal atom aggregates is at least one selected from the group consisting of Fe, Zn, As, Al, Mn, P, Au, Ag and W.

22. The diode according to claim 19, wherein diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 7 nm or smaller.

23. The diode according to claim 19 , wherein diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 5 nm or smaller.

24. The diode according to claim 19, wherein said pitch is from 11 to 14 nm.

25. The diode according to claim 20, wherein said substrate is a silicon substrate.

26. A method of fabricating diode which has a pn junction formed from quantum dots arrayed on the surface of a substrate having an insulation layer on the surface thereof, comprising the steps of:

(a) fabricating metalloprotein complex heterodimer including donor impurities and acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates;
(b) having metalloprotein complex heterodimer adsorbed onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution;
(c) placing said LB membrane having said metalloprotein complex hetero-dimer adsorbed thereon on a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of protein and has an insulation layer on the surface thereof, and burning out the protein through heat treatment in an inert gas that does not react with said substrate;
(d) reducing said metalloprotein complex in a reducing atmosphere thereby to obtain metal atom aggregates;
(e) forming an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction by diffusing-said donor impurities and acceptor impurities via said insulation layer into said substrate by heat treatment;
(f) forming an electrode section by patterning electrodes of specified configuration; and
(g) irradiating said n-type region, p-type region, pn junction and electrode section with electron beam of a scanning electron microscope, of which beam width is set to be not greater than

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said pitch, in vacuum in the presence of a trace of carbon compound, while scanning said electron beam to have carbon vapor-deposited between said n-type region and said electrode section, and between p-type region and said electrode section, thereby forming lead wires.

27. The method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of adsorbing ferritin as said metalloprotein complex onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution.

28. A transistor having npn or pnp structure formed from quantum dots arrayed on the surface of a substrate which has an insulation layer on the surface thereof, said transistor comprising:

 said quantum dots comprising metal atom aggregates;
 donor impurities or acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer being arrayed with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex, and a group of impurities capable of forming npn structure formed from acceptor impurities having donor impurities on both sides thereof or a group of impurities capable of forming pnp structure formed from donor impurities having acceptor impurities on both sides thereof is arrayed on the surface of said substrate; and
 an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction formed by diffusing said donor impurities and acceptor impurities via said insulation layer into said substrate, and an electrode section formed in a specified configuration and a wiring section for connecting said n-type region , said p-type region and the electrode section .

29. The transistor according to claim 28, wherein a metal composing said metal atom aggregates is capable of ionizing in an aqueous solution.

30. The transistor according to claim 28 , wherein the metal composing said metal atom aggregates is at least one selected from the group consisting of Fe, Zn, As, Al, Mn, P, Au, Ag and W.

31. The transistor according to claim 28, wherein diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 7 nm or smaller.

32. The transistor according to claim 28, wherein diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 5 nm or smaller.

33. The transistor according to claim 28, wherein said pitch is from 11 to 14 nm.

34. The transistor according to claim 28, wherein said substrate is a silicon substrate.

35. A method of fabricating transistor which has an npn or pnp junction formed from quantum dots arrayed on the surface of a substrate having an insulation layer on the surface thereof, which comprises the step of arraying donor impurities and acceptor impurities with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex on the surface of said substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) fabricating metalloprotein complex heterotrimer by holding acceptor impurities or donor impurities on both sides of said donor impurities and said acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates;
- (b) having metalloprotein complex heterotrimer adsorbed onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution;
- (c) placing said LB membrane having said metalloprotein complex heterotrimer adsorbed thereon on a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of protein;
- (d) burning out said protein through heat treatment in an inert gas that does not react with said substrate; and
- (e) reducing said metal atom aggregates in a reducing atmosphere; which further comprises the steps of:
- (f) forming an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction by diffusing the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities via said insulation layer into said substrate by heat treatment;
- (g) forming an electrode section by patterning electrodes of a specified configuration; and
- (h) irradiating said n-type region, p-type region and said electrode section with electron beam of a scanning electron microscope, of which beam width is set to be not greater than said pitch, in vacuum in the presence of a trace of carbon compound, while scanning said electron beam to have carbon vapor-deposited between the n-type region and the electrode section, and between the p-type region and the electrode section, thereby forming lead wires.

36. The method according to claim 35, further comprising the step of adsorbing ferritin as said metalloprotein complex onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution.

37. A transistor array comprising transistors arranged in two-dimensional configuration, said transistor having an npn or pnp structure formed from quantum dots arrayed on the surface of a semiconductor substrate which has an insulation layer on the sur-

face thereof, said transistor comprising;

said quantum dots comprising metal atom aggregates;

donor impurities or acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer having at least one layer of apoprotein in the surrounding thereof are arranged with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex, and a group of impurities capable of forming npn structure formed from acceptor impurities having donor impurities on both sides thereof or a group of impurities capable of forming pnp structure formed from donor impurities having acceptor impurities on both sides thereof is arranged on the surface of said substrate;

an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction formed by diffusing said donor impurities and acceptor impurities via said insulation layer into said substrate, and an electrode section formed in a specified configuration and a wiring section for connecting the n-type region, the p-type region and said electrode section; and

said transistors are arrayed in two-dimensional configuration at intervals of an integral number times said pitch which is from 11 to 14 nm.

38. A method of fabricating transistor array comprising transistors arrayed in two-dimensional configuration, with said transistor having an npn or pnp junction formed from quantum dots arranged on a surface of a semiconductor substrate having an insulation layer on the surface thereof, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) fabricating metalloprotein complex heterotrimer by holding acceptor impurities or donor impurities on both sides of said donor impurities and said acceptor impurities formed from metal atom aggregates;
- (b) bonding at least one layer of apoprotein around said metalloprotein complex heterotrimer;
- (c) having metalloprotein complex heterotrimer with said apoprotein being bonded theron adsorbed onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution;
- (d) placing said LB membrane, whereon said metalloprotein complex hetero-trimer with said apoprotein being bonded theron has been adsorbed, on a substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of the protein and has an insulation layer at least on the surface thereof;
- (e) burning out the protein through heat treatment in an inert gas that does not react with said substrate; and

(f) reducing said metalloprotein complex in a reducing atmosphere; and which further comprises the steps of:

(g) forming an n-type region, a p-type region and a pn junction by diffusing the donor impurities and the acceptor impurities via said insulation layer into said substrate by heat treatment;

(h) forming an electrode section by patterning electrodes of a specified configuration; and

(i) irradiating between said n-type region, p-type region and said electrode section with electron beam of a scanning electron microscope, of which beam width is set to be not greater than said pitch, in vacuum in the presence of a trace of carbon compound, while scanning said electron beam to have carbon vapor-deposited between the n-type region and the electrode section, and between the p-type region and the electrode section, thereby forming lead wires.

39. A method of forming microscopic dots of the order of nanometers having quantum effects, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) arraying a masking quantum dots formed from a plurality of metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex in two-dimensional configuration on a surface of a substrate having an insulation layer with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex;

(b) forming column shaped structures on the surface of said substrate by plasma etching via said masking quantum dots; and

(c) insulating a space between said column shaped structures.

40. A semiconductor light emitting device having p-type and n-type semiconductor layers and an activation layer on an insulating substrate, wherein;

masking quantum dots formed from a plurality of metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex are arrayed in two-dimensional configuration on the surface of said activation layer with a pitch of the size of said metalloprotein complex, and quantum dots formed from said activation layer are formed by plasma etching via said masking quantum dots.

41. The semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 40, wherein a metal composing said metal atom aggregates is capable of ionizing in an aqueous solution.

42. The semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 40, wherein the metal composing said metal atom aggregates is at least one selected from

the group consisting of Fe, Cu, Au and Ag.

43. The semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 40, wherein the diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 7 nm or smaller.

44. The semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 40, wherein the diameter of said metal atom aggregates is 5 nm or smaller.

45. The semiconductor light emitting device according to claim 40, wherein said pitch is from 11 to 14 nm.

46. A method of fabricating a semiconductor light emitting device having p-type and n-type semiconductor layers and an activation layer formed on an insulating substrate, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) adsorbing a metalloprotein complex onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution, and placing said LB membrane having said metalloprotein complex adsorbed thereon on the surface of an insulation substrate which is durable to temperatures beyond the burn-out temperature of protein and has an activation layer on the surface thereof;

(b) burning out the protein through heat treatment in an inert gas that does not react with said substrate; and

(c) reducing the metal atom aggregates in a reducing atmosphere; and

(d) forming quantum dots formed from activation layer by plasma etching of said activation layer via said masking quantum dots.

47. The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of adsorbing ferritin as said metalloprotein complex onto an LB membrane developed on the surface of an aqueous solution.

Fig. 1

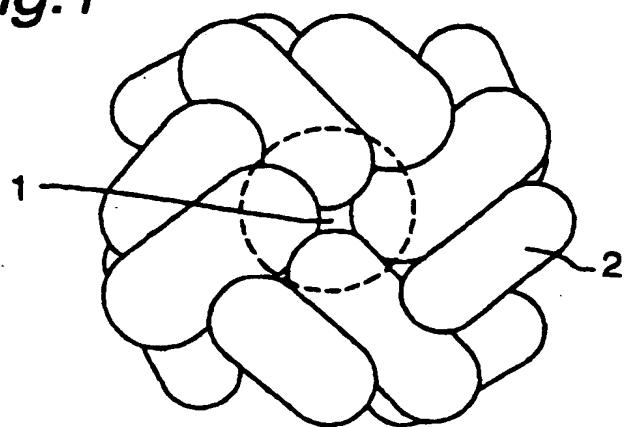


Fig. 2A

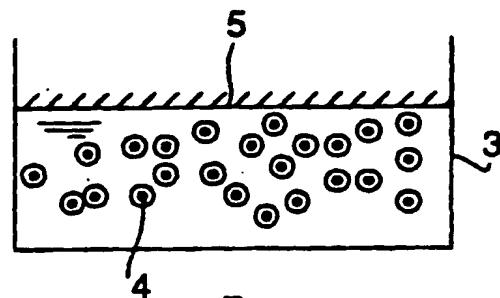


Fig. 2D



Fig. 2B

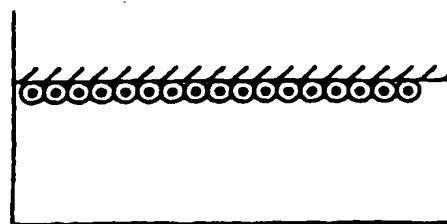


Fig. 2C

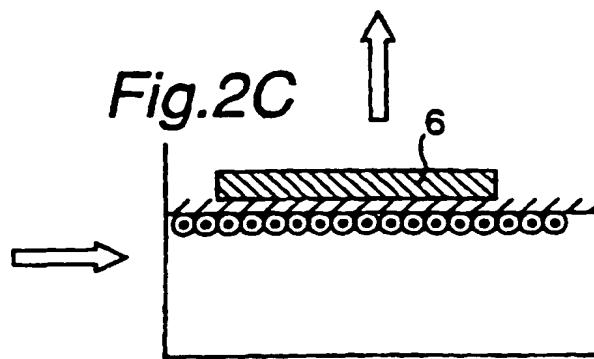


Fig.3

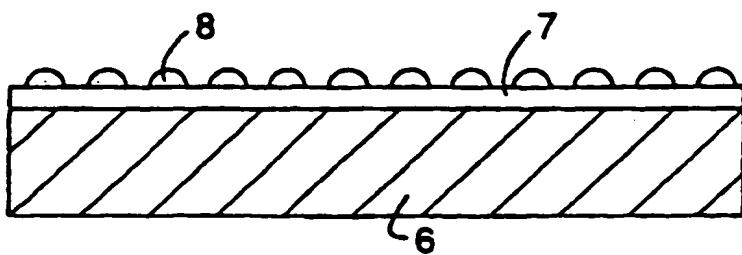


Fig.4



Fig.5

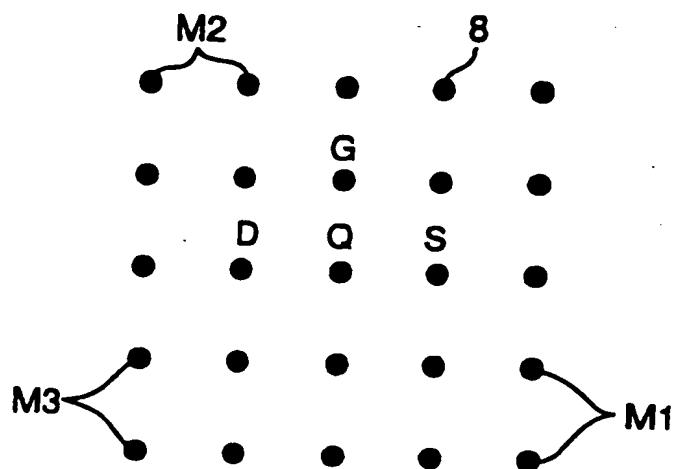


Fig.6

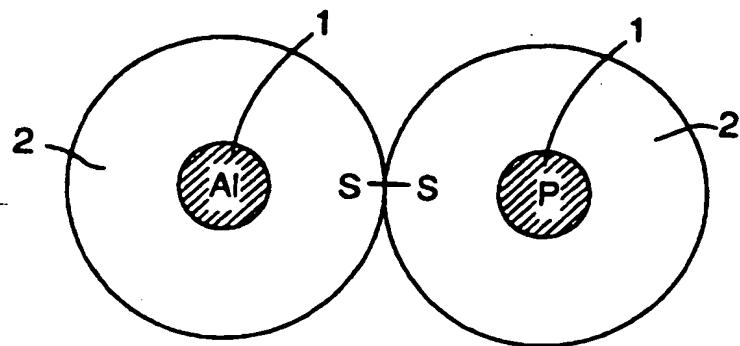


Fig.7

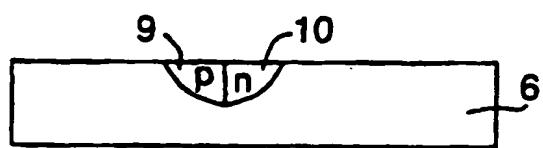


Fig.8

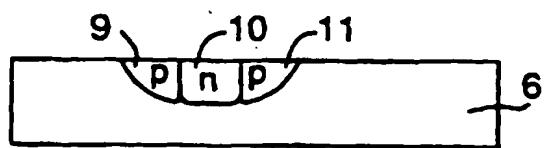


Fig.9

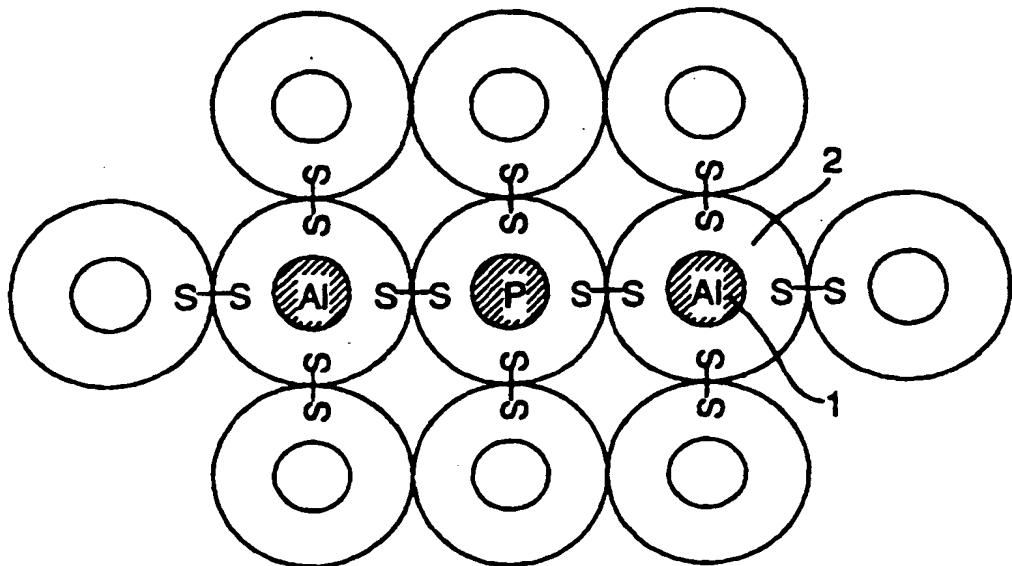


Fig.10

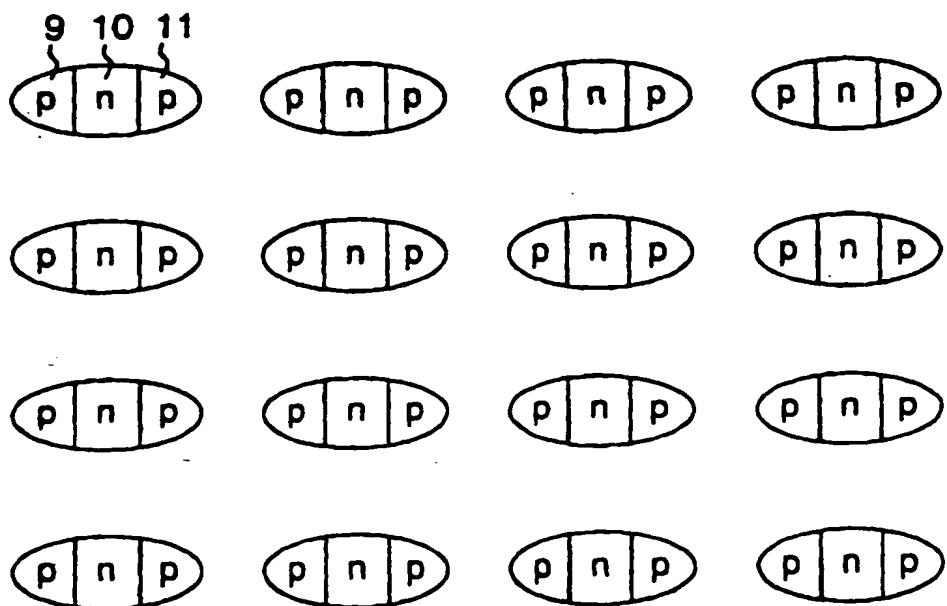


Fig. 11

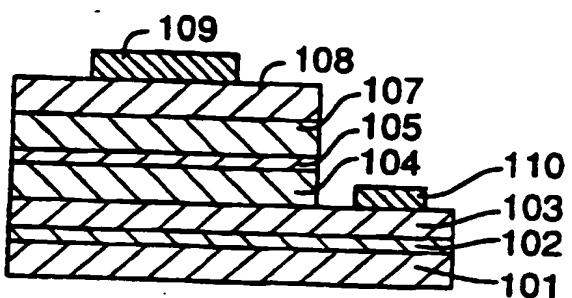
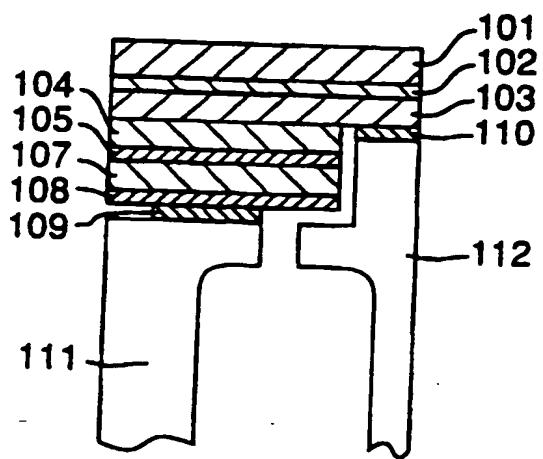


Fig. 12



(19)



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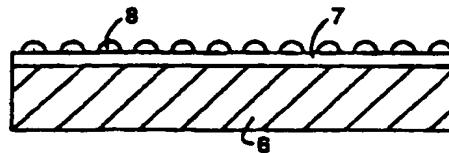
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(54) Quantum dot device

(57) A quantum device is constituted from a two-dimensional array of quantum dots formed from metal atom aggregates contained in metalloprotein complex. The metalloprotein is arranged on the surface of a substrate having an insulation layer with a pitch of the size of the metalloprotein complex. The diameter of the metal atom aggregates used in the quantum device is 7 nm or smaller, and the pitch of the metalloprotein complex is preferably from 11 to 14 nm.

Fig.3



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EP 98 10 9886

| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6) |
|---|---|-------------------|--|
| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | |
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| A | ----- | 39,46 | TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) H01L B05D |
| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search | Date of completion of the search | | Examiner |
| MUNICH | 8 July 1999 | | Morvan, D |
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